The Garden in August: Holiday Precautions

The Manchester Guardian (1901-1959); Jul 23, 1938;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Guardian (1821-2003) and The Observer (1791-2003)

The Garden in August

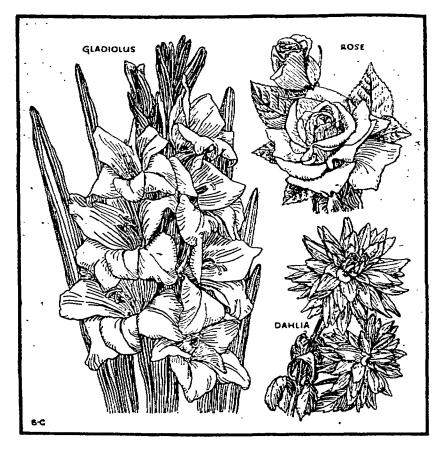
Holiday Precautions

South Manchester.

As holidays are so general in August. perhaps the best advice that can be given to those about to leave gardens without anyone to look after them in their absence is to mow and trim the grass; remove flowers and buds about to open from plants, so that instead of wasting their energies in the meantime they will have all the more in reserve for one's return; and give all beds a thorough weeding, remembering that each weed prevented from making and scattering seed would otherwise be a potential distributor of scores of other

causes of trouble. For those not going away there will be plenty of other work to do. Roses, like many softer wooded shrubs, have suffered severely from wind and rain, and a lot of knife play will be necessary to bring the beds back to a normal appearance. Flowers which "balled" by the gluing of the outer. petals are never worth retaining and should be cut back at once to the nearest strong bud or new shoot and the cuttings burned. If left they become the prey of mildew and a source of infection to Stimulants may be continued others. until about the middle of the month, but should then be put aside, as they are likely to produce too much soft, sappy growth of no use to the tree. And as warm, damp weather is favourable to the spread of mildew, it would be a wise "rambler" roses—not the climbing already at work.

they have sprung.



precaution to give all the trees a and all tall varieties should have the by canes as tall as the flowers are likely thorough spraying of liver of sulphur support of a stout central stake and of to reach. This is particularly necessary (sulphide of potassium), dissolved at the as many radiating bamboos as the with the taller large-flowered varieties. rate of one ounce to two gallons of strong outgrowths necessitate. It is the Copious watering is desirable in their water and three ounces of soft soap, only safe way. Overcrowding should be case also during dry weather, and the The mixture should be made just before prevented by systematic removal of the soil should be kept free from weeds and the application. If the sulphide be not weaker side shoots. The soil should be from caking after watering or prolonged handy, the simple Russian method of kept moist in dry weather by generous rains, treatment may be substituted—spraying watering; weak solutions of fertilisers with a solution of bicarbonate of soda may be applied once a week when the dissolved at the rate of a quarter of flowers are being freely produced; and an ounce to two gallons of water, the usual devices should be adopted for And as soon as possible after the flowers the trapping of earwigs and caterpillars have faded the flowered shoots of all which, with hordes of capsid bugs, are

hybrids now so numerous—should be Gladioli, too, should now be revealing cut back close to the stems from which their flowering stems, and as soon as these are sufficiently free from the for planting and replanting bulbs of the Dahlias are now making good progress broad leaves they should be supported Madonna lily.

A fortnightly application of soot water and another of sulphate of iron-about half an ounce to two gallons of water—are beneficial to early-flowering chrysan-themums, and most varieties which produce buds freely in groups of three give better blooms if the two smallers. give better blooms if the two smaller side buds of each group are pinched out while they are still small. B. L.

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